



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WEST SAC PROPERTY OWNERS APPROVE ASSESSMENT FOR DRAINAGE SERVICES
Reclamation District 900 property assessment approved with 57 percent of the weighted vote

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA – Reclamation District 900 (District) announced today that a proposed property assessment for Drainage Operations and Maintenance was approved by property owners in a ballot-by mail election. Ballot tabulation completed by a third-party public finance and project managing firm on Monday, June 6, showed that 57 percent of the weighted ballots returned by property owners were in favor of the assessment. Of the 10,809 ballots issued, 2,581 valid ballots were returned representing about 30.6 percent of the total possible weighted vote.

In follow up action this morning, the District’s Board of Directors adopted the Engineer’s Report that sets forth the methodology for calculating assessments and authorized levy of the new assessment starting in fiscal year 2016-17. The District’s existing assessment, which provided roughly \$577,000 in revenues per year, has been suspended. The new assessment is expected to raise approximately \$2.2 million each year, if levied at the maximum rate.

Founded in 1911, the District is responsible for operating and maintaining an internal drainage system that removes storm and rainwater from approximately 12,000 properties in an area spanning 11,000 acres. That system is critical to providing properties 100-year flood protection – or protection from a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year – in conjunction with the levees that circle the City. The District proposed the new assessment following a comprehensive two-year evaluation and planning process that focused on current and future anticipated needs.

“Unfortunately, cost increases over the past 10 years have been significant,” said RD 900 General Manager Kenric Jameson. “Despite the fact that we’ve been very cost efficient and fiscally conservative, the increasing costs for permitting and regulatory compliance, maintaining aging pump stations, and addressing encroachment on canals and ditches and vandalism have taken their toll. We can’t defer facility upkeep and expect the system to operate as designed.”

According to Jameson, assessment revenues will provide for short and long-term capital projects, ongoing operations and maintenance of all system facilities, compliance with state and federal regulations, and replacement and rehabilitation of equipment.

For more information, please contact Kim Floyd, Public Outreach Consultant, at (916) 409-0426.

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Since 1911, Reclamation District 900 has operated and maintained both the levees and the internal drainage system that reduce flood risk for properties in the City of West Sacramento. Today, the District is responsible for operating and maintaining 13.6 miles of levees, along with the facilities that make up the internal drainage system (9 pump stations, 33 pumps, 38 miles of canals and ditches, and 6 detention basins).